

Second, in contrast to that presently claimed, Hwang relates to “zoom-in” and interpolation. In Hwang, a “zoom-in” image, that is, a magnified image, is produced by mixing two consecutive frames and interpolation is used to generate a magnified image based on the two frames.

For at least any of the above reasons, Hwang fails to anticipate claims 1, 4, and 5-10.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

- The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hwang in view of US Patent 5,412,421 to Hale (hereinafter Hale). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

As noted above, Hwang is deficient. And Hale fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Hwang. Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Hwang and Hale as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still not include all the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

- The Examiner rejected claim 12 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hwang in view of US Patent 6,157,747 to Szeliski (hereinafter Szeliski). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

Again, Hwang relates to “zoom-in” and interpolation. In Hwang, a “zoom-in” image, that is, a magnified image, is produced by mixing two consecutive frames and interpolation is used to generate a magnified image based on the two frames. Meanwhile Szeliski relates to a mosaic image. In Szeliski, a mosaic image is a mosaic of a plurality of images rendered by combining the images using a moving vector.

However, Szeliski does not describe minimizing a rendered image, which the presently claimed invention does. In the presently claimed invention, it is possible to take a picture of a subject that is broader than the viewing angle of a camera. In particular, in claim 1, the phrase “zooms out the received frame of field image signals in accordance with the given magnification” indicates a minimizing process because “zoom out” means minimization.

The Examiner cites FIG. 3 and column 16, lines 55-57 of Szeliski as using “a zooming panoramic camera to zoom in and out when partially or fully overlapping images to look at images in the same scene but at different viewing angles and thus discloses wherein <sic> the zoomed-out image includes a larger than a respective area <sic> within a viewing angle of the camera when capturing images.”

However, the passage cited by the Examiner is not relevant to the subject matter of claim 12. Instead, this passage discusses re-estimating the focal length of an image in a video sequence when zoom is adjusted during exposure. At column 17, lines 3-6, Szeliski indicates that this focal length adjustment “cannot be done as part of the initial sequential mosaic stage, since this method presupposes that only the newest image is being adjusted.” In other words, this passage does not disclose zooming out a mosaic image, but rather, adjusting the zoom on an individual exposure so that the alignment and scale of a new image is consistent with earlier images, thereby permitting the mosaic to be formed.

Further Szeliski and Hwang cannot be combined to render a zoomed-in image of the present invention because Szeliski relates a mosaic image whereas Hwang refers to magnification. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner.

For at least any of the above reasons, Hwang and Szeliski fail to render obvious Applicant’s claim 12.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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